

March 20, 2013

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

DoD to deploy 14 New Missile Interceptors (Rep. Franks)

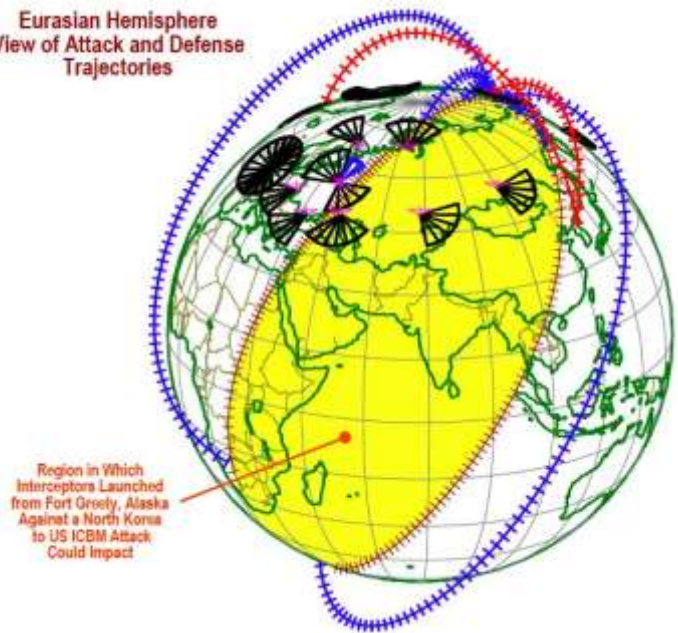
The U.S. is deploying 14 new ground-based missile interceptors (GBIs) in Alaska to counter renewed nuclear threats from North Korea and Iran. Finally, after years of abject neglect, the importance of missile defense is finally being partially recognized by this Administration.

The new interceptors will be based at Fort Greely, an Army launch site about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska, and are projected to be fully deployed by 2017. The additions will bring the U.S.-based ground interceptor deployment from 30 to 44, including four that are based in California.

The move, however, comes at the price of abandoning the final phase of the European Phased Adaptive Approach missile shield. Missile defense has been so erratically underfunded that the Obama Administration is forcing on the American people an unsettling risk of homeland vulnerability and limited power projection, on behalf of our own security and that of our allies. This is dereliction of our primary federal responsibility. The nuclear weapons programs along with advancing missile technology by America's foes are a clarion call to restore proper funding to a fully layered, global missile defense apparatus.

While this announcement of the new GBIs is a positive step, it is truly unfortunate that it has taken multiple missile tests by these routinely belligerent, rogue nations for the President -- who in 2001 said 'I don't agree with missile defense' -- to realize that our missile defense systems, specifically our west coast missile defense sites that have long needed more Ground-Based Interceptors, are absolutely critical to the ongoing security of America.

Eurasian Hemisphere
View of Attack and Defense
Trajectories



Nuclear threats from North Korea are on the rise, but investing in our strategic forces should not be spurred by input from rogue nations. These 14 new interceptors should just be the start of funding a fully-layered, global missile defense apparatus.

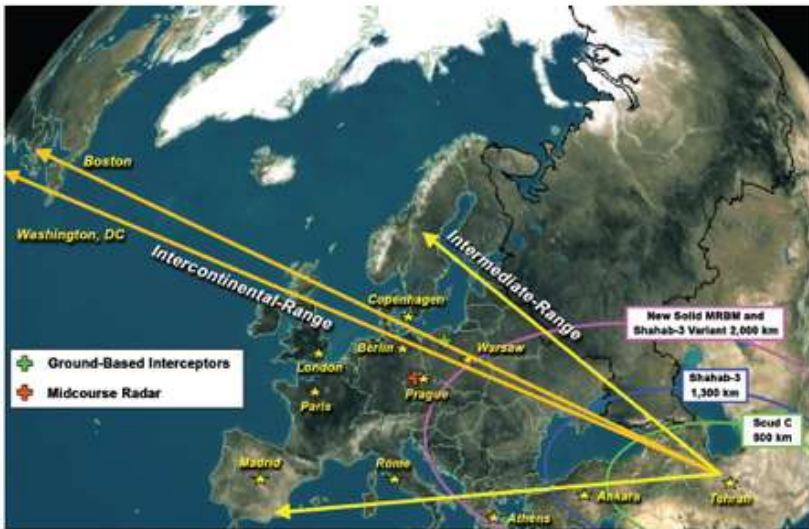
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Secretary Hagel Unveils European Missile Defense "Flexibility" (Rep. Fleming)

The American public has finally seen what President Obama meant when he told Russian President Vladimir Putin that the U.S. would have more "flexibility" regarding European missile defense following the November 2012 election. Last week, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced that the United States would be cancelling the fourth and final installment of the planned European missile defense shield. By eliminating Polish and Czech defenses against Russian Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), the Administration hopes it will be able to move forward with yet another round of arms control negotiations with the Kremlin. This is despite a failure to confirm that Russia is in fact complying with the terms of the previous weapons reduction agreement, the New START Treaty, and an admission by Russia that it is still unsatisfied with the Euro defense shield cancellation because of the decision to deploy interceptors to protect against the North Korean threat.

A primary objective of America's missile defense capabilities is to prevent rogue states from launching missile strikes. With North Korea's recent nuclear test, it is clear that the U.S. must have robust missile defense capabilities.

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Polish and Czech Republic Basing Maximizes European Coverage against longer-range Ballistic Missile Threats.

*Continued:
Sec. Hagel Unveils European Missile Defense "Flexibility" (Rep. Fleming)*

The Administration's commitment to undermine the integrity of these systems has clear implications not just for our homeland security, but for the security of our allies in the Middle East and our NATO partners. It is time that the advocates of unilateral disarmament recognize that President Obama has not only made the world less safe through his "flexible" defensive posture and inane foreign policy, but has undermined his own goal of reducing the world's total arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Instead, North Korea and Iran continue to move forward with their weapons programs while nations such as Japan and Saudi Arabia consider whether to develop a nuclear deterrent of their own as the United States winds down its nuclear weapons stockpile and missile defense capabilities.

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Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office.
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